

**Economic and Social Council**

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**Economic and environmental questions: international
cooperation in tax matters**

**Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in
Tax Matters**

Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/2004/L.60

**Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance
with rule 31 of the rules of procedures of the Economic and
Social Council**

I. Relevant requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of draft resolution E/2004/L.60, the Economic and Social Council would, inter alia, decide that:

(a) The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters shall be renamed the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters;

(b) The renamed Committee shall comprise 25 members nominated by Governments and acting in their expert capacity, who are to be drawn from the fields of tax policy and tax administration and who are to be selected to reflect an adequate equitable geographical distribution, representing different tax systems. The members shall be appointed by the Secretary-General, after notification of the Council. The term of office shall be four years;

(c) The Committee as of 2005 will meet on a yearly basis for not more than five days in Geneva, within existing resources;

(d) The Committee shall be serviced by a small technical staff, which shall, inter alia, within existing resources, help collect and disseminate information on tax policies and practices, in collaboration with concerned multilateral bodies and relevant international organizations.



II. Relationship of the proposed decisions to the programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 and the anticipated programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007

2. The activities to be carried out relate to programme 6 (General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services), subprogramme 10 (Financing for development) of programme 7 (Economic and social affairs) and subprogramme 4 (Support services) of programme 24 (Management and central support services) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. They fall under sections 2 (General Assembly affairs and conference services), 9 (Economic and social affairs) and 29D (Office of Central Support Services) of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. For the biennium 2006-2007, the activities would relate to programme 1 (General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management), subprogramme 10 (Financing for development) of programme 7 (Economic and social affairs) and subprogramme 4 (Support services) of programme 24 (Management and central support services) of the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 and sections 2 (General Assembly affairs and conference services), 9 (Economic and social affairs) and 28E (Administration, Geneva) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

III. Activities by which the proposed decisions would be carried out

3. The existing entitlement of the Group of Experts is to meet for one five-day session every two years. In accordance with the resolution, it is estimated that each session of the renamed Committee, which would be held yearly for not more than five days in Geneva, would entail the provision of two meetings per day (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) for a total of 10 meetings, with interpretation services in all six languages. Documentation requirements are estimated at 18 pages of pre-session, five pages of in-session and 100 pages of post-session documents for each session.

4. In accordance with section I, paragraph 4, of General Assembly resolution 40/243, United Nations bodies shall meet at their respective established headquarters; the terms of the resolution, which would have the Committee meet in Geneva, would represent an exception to the headquarters principle enunciated in that resolution.

5. With regard to the terms of draft resolution E/2004/L.60 described in paragraphs 1 (c) and (d) above, the attention of the Council is drawn to part B, section VI, of General Assembly resolution 45/248, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that administrative and budgetary matters should be dealt with by the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. It is the intention of the Secretariat to continue the arrangements in place and, if need be, to meet any additional requirements for servicing the Committee within available resources.

IV. Additional requirements

6. Should the Council adopt the draft resolution, requirements for the holding of a Committee session are estimated at \$294,900, comprising provisions for conference-servicing costs (\$129,000), travel and per diem expenses of members of the Committee (\$156,900) and travel and per diem expenses of staff to service the session of the Committee in Geneva (\$9,000).

7. For the session of the Committee in 2005, the related requirements would be met from the existing provisions for the Group of Experts in the biennium 2004-2005. The total requirements for the biennium 2006-2007 and beyond would amount to \$589,800 per biennium, representing net additional requirements of \$294,900 over the 2004-2005 provisions. Those requirements would be included in the proposed programme budgets for 2006-2007 and subsequent biennia.

V. Conclusion

8. Should the Council adopt draft resolution E/2004/L.60, there would be no additional requirements in the programme budget for 2004-2005. Resources required for holding two sessions of the Committee in each biennium, estimated at a total amount of \$589,800, would be requested in the context of the proposed programme budgets for 2006-2007 and subsequent biennia.
